

Claims:

1. A personal payment number format comprising:
routing information to direct financial transaction information to a
particular institution among a plurality of institutions using a computer network;
5 and
a unique identification of a user associated with said particular institution,
wherein said personal payment number identifying an account into which funds
can be transferred but from which funds cannot be transferred.
2. The personal payment number format according to claim 1, further
10 comprising an identifier identifying said personal payment number as an account
into which funds can be transferred but not from which funds can be received.
3. The personal payment number format according to claim 1, wherein
said routing information identifies an address associated with accounts limited to
receiving funds and not capable of transferring out funds.
4. The personal payment number format according to claim 1, wherein
15 said routing information includes a bank identification number (BIN).
5. The personal payment number format according to claim 1, wherein
said personal payment number is formatted in accordance with standard
credit/debit card formats.
6. The personal payment number format according to claim 1, wherein
20 said personal payment number is formatted to be distinct from standard
credit/debit card formats.

627 7. The personal payment number format according to claim 1, wherein said personal payment number is formatted to be unique among standard credit/debit card formats.

5 8. The personal payment number format according to claim 1, further comprising a verification code.

9. The personal payment number format according to claim 1, wherein said verification code is selected from a group consisting of a checksum number and a cvv2.

10 10. A personal payment number processing system comprising:
means for allocating personal payment numbers which identify an account into which funds can be transferred but from which funds cannot be transferred;
means for initiating a personal payment number transaction;
means for routing a personal payment transaction; and
means for processing said personal payment number transaction.

15 11. The personal payment number processing system according to claim 10, further comprising
means for handling request for a personal payment number; and
means for distributing personal payment numbers.

20 12. The personal payment number processing system according to claim 10, further comprising interfacing with a secure personal payment number database to allow queries about transactions.

62/ 13. The personal payment number processing system according to claim 10, further comprising means for storing personal payment numbers and associated credit/debit accounts as linked accounts.

5 14. The personal payment number processing system according to claim 10, wherein said allocation means includes means for ensuring that there is no reversible numerical relationship between the personal payment number and an associated credit/debit account.

10 15. The personal payment number processing system according to claim 10, wherein said means for processing said personal payment number transaction further includes:

means for validating that a received personal payment number is a valid and issued number, and

means for identifying the appropriate associated customer account details.

15 16. The personal payment number processing system according to claim 10, wherein said means for processing said personal payment number transaction further includes:

means for determine how funds are due to be forwarded for this customer and obtain required account numbers,

20 means for creating appropriate transaction messages incorporating the forwarding account details and the adjusted amount for the fund transfer to be completed by existing bank systems, and

means for forwarding the transaction messages onto the by existing bank systems for completion.

17. A personal payment number processing method comprising:
allocating personal payment numbers which identify an account into which
funds can be transferred but from which funds cannot be transferred;
initiating a personal payment number transaction;
5 routing a personal payment transaction; and
processing said personal payment number transaction.

18. The personal payment number processing method according to
claim 17, further comprising
10 handling request for a personal payment number; and
distributing personal payment numbers.

19. The personal payment number processing system according to claim
17, further comprising storing personal payment numbers and associated
credit/debit accounts as linked accounts.

20. The personal payment number processing system according to claim
17, wherein said step of processing said personal payment number transaction
further includes:

validating that a received personal payment number is a valid and issued
number, and
20 identifying the appropriate associated customer account details.